(a) and (b) First systematic attempt to introduce a crop insurance scheme was made in 1985 by introducing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) which remained in operation till Kharif 1999 season. The scheme was voluntary in nature and was available to all the farmers availing crop loans from rural financial institutions for growing wheat, paddy, millets, oilseeds and pulses. Under the scheme, sum insured was equal to the crop loan disbursed subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per farmer. The premium payable was 2% (wheat, paddy & millets) and 1% (oilseeds and pulses) of the sum insured. 50% of the premium payable by small and marginal farmers was subsidised equally by the Central and State Governments. The scheme was implemented by 19 States and 4 UTs in one or more seasons since its inception.

(c) Recently, from Rabi 1999-2000 season Government has introduced a new scheme, namely, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) covering all the farmers (both loanee and non-loanee), all the crops subject to availability of past yield data and higher level of risk. Scheme is available for all the States/UTs on voluntary basis.

Reconstruction of Houses Destroyed in Cyclone

763. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses estimated as damaged due to cyclone in Orissa in October last;

(b) whether Government are taking steps to reconstruct houses in the cyclone affected areas in that state; and

(c) if so, the progress as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) 18.97 lakhs as intimated by the Government of Orissa.

(b) As per available information, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCC) has sanctioned a pakage of Rs. .1116.40 crore for rehabilitation programme for reconstruction of houses under loan scheme. HUDCO is also establishing several

building centres in the affected region to assist the reconstruction programme. Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) has sanctioned machines for manufacturing innovative building materials and components in the worst affected areas of Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara to give technology support to the building centres being set up with HUDCO's assistance. BMTPC is also conducting a Rapid Damage Assessment Study, at the behest of the State Government, to ascertain the nature and extent of damage to housing stock caused by this event.

(c) BMTPC's machines have already reached the centres at Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara. HUDCO has already released a part » of the loan to the State Government for starting reconstruction of houses immediately. The reconstruction of houses and the setting up of building centres have already been taken up and the work is in progress.

Agricultural Growth Rate

764. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to achieve a growth rate of 4.5 per cent per annum in agriculture output and a production target of 234 metric tonnes of foodgrains by the year 2001-2002; and

(b) what are the steps being taken by Government to achieve this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The Ninth Five Plan Document approved by the National Development Council in its meeting held on 19th February, 1999 has projected a growth rate of about 4.5 per cent per annum in agricultural output and production of 234 million tonnes of foodgrains by 2001/2002.

(b) A regionally differentiated strategy based on agronomic, climatic and environmental conditions is being pursued to realise the full potential of growth in every region.